

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/099,947

Examiner

LaShanya R. Nash

Applicant(s)

NEEBE ET AL.

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to Amendment After Non-Final Rejection mailed 8/24/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 39-58.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

In the previous Office Action mailed July 13, 2005, the Examiner objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (i.e. claims 20-21), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Amendment After Non-Final Rejection mailed August 8, 2005 cancelled claims 1-38 and presented new claims 39-58 directed to the allowable subject matter as stated in the previous Office Action.

Therefore claims 39-58 are allowed. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.109 and M.P.E.P. 1302.14, the following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claims 39 and 47 recite limitations that are directed to the previously indicated allowable subject matter of claims 20, 21, and 31. The aforementioned claims unambiguously describe a specific method for employing the item delivery and retrieval system for implementation of package pick-up automated applications. This specific functionality is distinguishable over the more general postal, packaging, and purchasing automation methods as disclosed in the cited prior art. Particularly, Chen discloses a plurality of user-specific functions that are implemented through the associated plurality of applications as configured at the kiosk. However, the prior art does not disclose every limitation of a detailed method for a user to complete the various applications (e.g. package pick-up) employing the kiosk, but rather addresses a method for accomplishing the user-specific reconfiguration of the kiosk so as to support the various applications.

Claims 41 and 50 recite limitations that are directed to the previously indicated allowable subject matter of claims 20, 21, and 33. The aforementioned claims unambiguously describe a specific method for employing the item delivery and retrieval system for implementation of package exchange automated applications. This specific functionality is distinguishable over the more general postal, packaging, and purchasing automation methods as disclosed in the cited prior art. Particularly, Chen discloses a plurality of user-specific functions that are implemented through the associated plurality of applications as configured at the kiosk. However, the prior art does not disclose every limitation of a detailed method for a user to complete the various applications (e.g. package exchange) employing the kiosk, but rather addresses a method for accomplishing the user-specific reconfiguration of the kiosk so as to support the various applications.

Claims 43 and 53 recite limitations that are directed to the previously indicated allowable subject matter of claims 20, 21, and 35. The aforementioned claims recite unambiguously describe a specific method for employing the item delivery and retrieval system for implementation of club type automated applications. This specific functionality is distinguishable over the more general postal, packaging, and purchasing automation methods as disclosed in the cited prior art. Particularly, Chen discloses a plurality of user-specific functions that are implemented through the associated plurality of applications as configured at the kiosk. However, the prior art does not disclose every limitation of a detailed method for a user to complete the various applications (e.g. club

type) employing the kiosk, but rather addresses a method for accomplishing the user-specific reconfiguration of the kiosk so as to support the various applications.

Claims 45 and 56 recite limitations that are directed to the previously indicated allowable subject matter of claims 20,21, and 37. The aforementioned claims unambiguously describe a specific method for employing the item delivery and retrieval system for implementation of postage buying automated applications. This specific functionality is distinguishable over the more general postal, packaging, and purchasing automation methods as disclosed in the cited prior art. Particularly, Chen discloses a plurality of user-specific functions that are implemented through the associated plurality of applications as configured at the kiosk. However, the prior art does not disclose every limitation of a detailed method for a user to complete the various applications (e.g. postage buying) employing the kiosk, but rather addresses a method for accomplishing the user-specific reconfiguration of the kiosk so as to support the various applications.

Conclusion

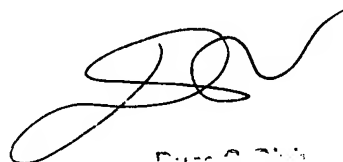
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShanya R Nash whose telephone number is (571) 272-3957. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShanya Nash
Art Unit, 2153
December 4, 2005



Patricia A. Smith
Patent Examiner